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## Putting Reins On the CIA

GENERAL WASHINGTON had a little espionage system to tell him what the Redcoats were up to, but his agents, including Nathan Hale, were not very competent. President Lincoln fell into the hands of the bumbling Pinkertons, but General Grant, who was no mystic, distrusted them.

Doubtless in war you need spies, though their services have been romantically overrated by writers, and naturally overrated by the spies themselves.

In a highly technological civilization, in a world of intensely active hostility such as Cold War, it may be conceded that an espionage system is necessitous. It may also be conceded it can't function at all, unless certain areas of its functions are held secret. But this requires that the government leaders responsible to the people must exert a strong regulatory control over general espionage policy, lest the system get out of hand, and sap the leaders of their constitutional authority to determine international policy.



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TAILING THIS PRIOR LIMITATION, the espionage system can present the constitutional leadership with a *fait accompli* in some foreign field, which may cripple the leadership and can dangerously cripple it.

As most Americans know, our espionage system is called the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA operates secretly, not only as a daily function, but as to general policy. Its table of organization is unknown. It operates beyond any effective control of the Congress, and so far as we know, of the President himself. It gives no sign of effective liaison with military intelligence, or of guidance from the State Department.

This might be condoned if CIA came up with brilliant strokes of espionage, cognizable after the event. But in two of our most dangerous areas—Cuba and Vietnam—CIA has been of little, if any, help in determining what was occurring, or what was likely to occur. Moreover, CIA agents have been caught acting as if they were making foreign policy.

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SENATORS McCARTHY, Minnesota, and Young, Ohio, now propose a permanent Senate-House committee to oversee CIA.

Senator McCarthy said that in 20 years no formal review of CIA operations has been mounted "to determine whether a valid basis exists for criticism of the agency, or to prevent what appear to be distortions of policy . . ." Senator Young said, "The CIA has, in effect, been making foreign policy . . . has gradually taken on the character of an invisible government, answerable only to itself." Both Senators decried a present divided system of informal inquiry by two subcommittees.

It must be assumed CIA and its friends will sally forth to block this solution for the murky American espionage situation. It may be the Executive will oppose it. But the Congress and the people need not take this opposition into account. They have only to take into account that a secret hierarchy, cemented into place, will forever resist restraint, however prudent, by the free society surrounding it.

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